

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

1-32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) A barium titanate-based particulate composition comprising:  
barium titanate-based particles coated with an alkaline earth metal silicate-based sintering aid.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles have an average particle size of less than about 500 nm.

35. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles have an average particle size of less than about 150 nm.

36. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are substantially spherical.

37. (Amended) The composition of claim 33, wherein the alkaline earth metal is an alkaline earth metal from the group consisting of barium and calcium.

38. (Amended) The composition of claim 33, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based sintering aid has the formula [coating comprises]  $Ba_xCa_{1-x}SiO_3$ , wherein  $0 < x < 1$ .

39. (Amended) The composition of claim [34] 38, wherein x is between about 0.4 and about 0.6.

40. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein the coating includes a plurality of chemically distinct layers.

41. (Amended) A barium titanate-based composition comprising a mixture of [:] barium titanate-based particles[;] and alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles having an average particle size of less than about 500 nm.

42. (Original) The barium titanate-based composition of claim 41, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles have an average particle size of less than about 100 nm.

43. (Original) The barium titanate-based composition of claim 41, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles have an average particle size of between about 10 nm and about 50 nm.

44. (Amended) A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:  
an electrode layer; and  
a dielectric layer formed on the electrode layer, the dielectric layer comprising sintered barium titanate-based particles coated with an alkaline earth metal silicate-based sintering aid.

45. (Amended) A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:  
an electrode layer; and  
a dielectric layer formed on the electrode layer, the dielectric layer comprising a mixture of sintered barium titanate-based particles and sintered alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles having an average particle size of less than about 500 nm.

46. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are coated with at least one dopant compound.

47. (New) The composition of claim 46, wherein the at least one dopant compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of lithium, magnesium, strontium, scandium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, manganese, cobalt, nickel, zinc, boron, antimony, tin, yttrium, lanthanum, lead, bismuth and a Lanthanide element.

48. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are coated with magnesium, manganese and yttrium.

49. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based sintering aid is barium silicate.

50. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are coated with an alkaline earth metal silicate based coating layer and at least one layer that comprises a dopant metal.

51. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are barium titanate particles.

52. (New) The composition of claim 41, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are coated with at least one dopant metal compound.

53. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the at least one dopant compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of lithium, magnesium, strontium, scandium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, manganese, cobalt, nickel, zinc, boron, antimony, tin, yttrium, lanthanum, lead, bismuth and a Lanthanide element.

54. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are coated with magnesium, manganese and yttrium.

55. (New) The composition of claim 41, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles are barium silicate particles.

56. (New) The composition of claim 41, wherein the alkaline earth metal silicate-based particles are barium calcium silicate particles.

57. (New) The composition of claim 41, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are barium titanate particles.